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Board of Registration in Nursing  
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April 11, 2018

To: Massachusetts Nursing and Professional Healthcare Organizations

From: Laurie Talarico, MS, RN, CNP Nursing Practice Coordinator

Re: Revised Advisory Ruling 9324: *Accepting, Verifying, Transcribing and Implementing Medication Orders*

At the April 11, 2018 Board of Registration in Nursing (Board) meeting, the Board revised Advisory Ruling 9324: *Accepting, Verifying, Transcribing and Implementing Medication Orders* to ensure compliance with current statutes, regulations and scope of practice standards.

AR 9324 guides the practice of Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses when accepting, verifying, transcribing, and implementing patient care orders from a duly authorized prescriber (i.e., Advanced Practice Registered Nurses with prescriptive authority, Physician Assistants, and Physicians).

Based on its review of relevant statutes and regulations, position statements published by professional nursing and health care organizations, scientific, peer-reviewed literature, the Board voted unanimously to revise AR 9324 by:

- a) Requiring range orders specify specific, objective measures that must be collected and assessed prior to administering the correct dosing. Range orders that do not contain these elements involve diagnosing and prescribing; activities that are outside the scope of RN and LPN nursing practice. Examples of specific, objective measures include biophysical markers such as blood pressure, pulse, lab values and oxygen saturation values; and
- b) Stating the practice of prescribing doses of opioid analgesics based solely on a patient's verbalized pain intensity would be subjective and should not be relied upon without co-existing objective elements of comprehensive pain assessment; and
- c) Updating references

Please take a moment to review the entire advisory ruling **[AR 9324: Accepting, Verifying, Transcribing and Implementing Medication Orders](#)**